

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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## Good Taste

By Walter E. Myer

THE next time you find yourself in a restaurant or railway coach or hotel lobby or some other place where a number of people are engaged in informal conversation, suppose you try a little experiment. Just close your eyes for a moment and allow yourself to become aware of the voices without paying close attention to any one of them.

You will be conscious of an undertone of somewhat subdued sound. Then, if the people about you are a typical lot, you will quickly single out some particular voice, louder, more strident than the others. Some individual will claim your attention. You will hear every word that he utters. His conversation will stand out above the indistinct murmur of the crowd.

It is an unusual body of two or three dozen people which does not include one or two or three individuals who at once become conspicuous because of their loud or piercing voices. Whenever they speak their neighbors look to see who they are and what they are like. They obtrude themselves upon their fellow passengers or fellow diners or upon any who may chance to be near them.

These people may not be a bad lot. They may, indeed, be quite respectable and well-intentioned persons. But they are insensitive. They have never acquired the art of moving in a quiet, unobtrusive manner among their fellows. They attract attention, not by the soundness of their ideas, the quality of their voices, the attractiveness of their personalities, the originality or effectiveness of their acts, but by advertising their physical presence raucously, cheaply. They show no regard for others.



Walter E. Myer

There is one very important lesson in behavior which such people have missed. They have not learned that in speech, in dress, in habits of eating, in ordinary behavior of all kinds, one should behave with good taste. It is not necessary to sacrifice individuality and to go entirely with the crowd. One should, however, make himself outstanding through good manners, not through bad. When one ignores this rule of conduct he may not commit a very serious offense but he draws unfavorable attention to himself. He produces a sense of irritation among others; he makes the difficult task of getting along together more difficult.

It is a good thing to standardize the little physical habits of life in order that we may associate together with as little irritation as possible. That does not mean that an individual should be regimented. The higher operations of his mind may still be free. He may be as original as he pleases. But there is not much point to one's exhausting his impulses toward originality by making himself conspicuous in a crowd, by acting according to rules not generally accepted, by failing to follow the usual rules of etiquette. There is no substitute for good taste.



"AM I ANNOYING YOU?" Business is good, but the problem of unemployment is a growing threat.

## Employment Trends

More Than 4 Million Americans Are Jobless, Though Country As a Whole Is Enjoying Period of Prosperity

LONG lines of jobless men may be seen almost any day outside the employment offices in Cumberland, Maryland. Located in the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains, this city with a population of about 43,000 has some 6,000 persons out of work. The outlook for the immediate future is dark, and local officials are asking the federal government for help.

Cumberland's prosperity in recent years has depended in large degree upon a big rayon factory and near-by coal mines. After the war an improvement program brought new labor-saving machinery into the rayon mill, and some jobs have been eliminated. During the past 12 months the demand for rayon has dropped, and additional workers have been laid off.

Meanwhile, the coal mines have fallen upon hard times. The increasing use of fuel oil and gas has cut the demand for coal. A number of Cumberland's mines have found that they cannot compete with more mechanized mines in the nearby area and elsewhere.

The picture in Cumberland is by no means indicative of the employment situation in general throughout the nation. Employment in the country as a whole is at a high level. In the middle of March, more than 57½ million Americans had jobs in civilian occupations. In addition, more than 1 million persons were serving in the nation's armed forces. The number employed in the United States today is more than 25 per cent higher than it was prior to World War II.

At the same time, most economists are predicting a continuation of prosperity, at least through 1950. Production is expanding, profits are high, and Americans are spending more than ever before on goods.

In this picture of booming business, the situation existing in Cumberland seems strangely out of place. Yet this Maryland city is but one of a number of areas where unemployment is a serious problem. As these words are written, there are 43 localities in the country where 12 per cent or more of the workers are without jobs. In all, there are more than 4 million unemployed persons in the U.S.A., and it is feared that there may be in excess of 5 million before the year is out.

As yet, our government leaders are not viewing the unemployment situation as a major, national problem. They point out that unemployment figures have little significance in themselves, but must be measured against the number of employed workers to give the over-all picture.

In this respect, they maintain that unemployment today, although higher than last year, is still relatively low. The number of persons who have jobs is more than 14 times the number of those who don't. Back in 1933, when depression unemployment was at its highest, the number of the employed was only about three times that of the unemployed.

However, Washington officials are unquestionably concerned about the present employment situation and are

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## Tempers Flare Over Irish Split

Many People in Both Parts of Island Still Oppose the Present Division

SIR Basil Brooke, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, has been visiting the United States and Canada this spring, and his trip has stirred up a heated dispute among Americans of Irish descent. The outbreak of this controversy probably made Sir Basil feel "at home," because a similar one has been raging in his own land for many years.

Here is the question that is causing the trouble: Should Ireland remain a divided island—containing an independent republic in the south, and a portion of the United Kingdom in the north? Followers of Sir Basil Brooke, who make up a large part of Northern Ireland's population, want the division to continue. But most people in the southern Irish Republic—along with numerous northerners—want the whole island to be united under a single, independent government. No end of the dispute is in sight.

To find the beginning of the conflict, one must look back as far as the 1100's. At that time, the English king sought to take possession of the island. Centuries of struggle followed. England eventually extended her power over the whole of Ireland, but the Irish never ceased to resist. Britain's relationship with Ireland involves a long record of wars and insurrections, and of atrocities committed by both sides.

The English took away vast amounts of land from Irish owners, for instance; and at times they sought to suppress the Roman Catholic religion,



JOHN COSTELLO (left) is Premier of the Irish Republic; Sir Basil Brooke is Premier of Ulster or Northern Ireland.

to which most Irishmen belong. The Irish, meanwhile, resorted to various deeds of violence.

Britain's acts of oppression have never been forgotten nor forgiven; so most people of the island have a feeling of considerable hostility toward England. But in six northeastern counties—the area known as Ulster or Northern Ireland—the situation is different. Large numbers of English and Scottish settlers were once sent

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# Tempers Flare

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to this northern region. They and their descendants have generally sided with Britain against other parts of Ireland.

Throughout most of Ireland, there was particularly violent agitation for freedom from Britain at about the time of World War I. Large numbers of northerners, however, insisted that they would rather stay under British rule than be placed under an all-Irish government. So a settlement that was reached in the early 1920's provided as follows:

(1) Southern Ireland became a self-governing British dominion, like Canada. (2) Northern Ireland, also known as Ulster, remained under the London government as part of the United Kingdom. It now sends representatives to the British Parliament, and also has its own Parliament and Prime Minister to take care of local affairs.



MAP FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON  
IRELAND and Ulster (Northern Ireland). Ulster is a part of the United Kingdom.

A further change was made last year, when Southern Ireland severed its ties with the British Commonwealth and became a completely separate republic.

The island as a whole is a little larger than South Carolina. The republic takes up roughly five sixths of its area, and Ulster covers the remaining sixth. From the standpoint of population, the two sections are a little more evenly divided. About three million people live in the republic, while Ulster has one and a third million.

Historical, economic, and religious arguments are now involved in the dispute over whether the island should remain "partitioned." Here is the case that people of the independent republic present:

"It is an outrage that British rule should be permitted on any part of the Irish soil. Centuries ago, the British invaded Ireland without justification; they sent English and Scottish settlers to the island; they seized land from the Irish; they maintained their hold by force.

"These ancient wrongs will not have been righted until all Ireland is reunited under an independent government. A united Ireland is desirable from an economic point of view, too. The south is mainly agricultural, while the north has great manufacturing industries; and the two sections together would form a well-balanced country."

Such views are held by an overwhelming majority of the southern Irish. Northerners are sharply divided, but those who control the government express their viewpoint as follows:

"Irish Republic leaders talk as

though we in Ulster were a *possession* of the United Kingdom. The truth is that we are a *part* of it, as are England, Scotland, and Wales.

"In many ways, most of our people resemble the Scottish and English more closely than they do the southern Irish. There is bitter feeling between the two of us, and the republic's inhabitants outnumber us by more than two to one. Those of us in Ulster who feel friendly toward Britain might become a harshly oppressed minority if the island were united under one government.

"Both the northern and the southern parts of Ireland carry on a heavy trade with England, Scotland, and Wales. Ulster's economic ties with the rest of the United Kingdom are more important than her economic ties with the Irish Republic."

Religious differences enter the picture too, because the Irish Republic is strongly Roman Catholic, while Ulster has a Protestant majority. The division of opinion within Ulster itself is, to a large extent, along church lines—with Catholics favoring union of north and south, and Protestants favoring the present arrangement.

The fight over the northern counties' status sometimes produces violence. After a recent outburst, the Ulster government put into effect a law which gives special emergency powers to its police. Homes can be searched without warrant, and people can be jailed on suspicion for as long as a week, without being brought to court or formally accused of crime. Officials of Northern Ireland contend that the emergency police powers are necessary to prevent bombings and shootings, but opponents complain that the government is using methods like those of dictatorships.

In general appearance of the land, the two sections of Ireland look a great deal alike. The island has mild and moist climate, rich soil, and brilliant green vegetation. Its central portion is a broad plain, and near the seacoast are low hills. The shore line, is indented with fjords and inlets.

Agriculture plays an important role in both sections of Ireland. The farms, mainly small ones, produce great quantities of oats, potatoes, flax, and vegetables, as well as livestock. Meat and dairy goods are among the main items sold abroad.

Since the island is poor in minerals, its people must buy such supplies as coal, iron, and petroleum from other lands. Nevertheless, numerous big



PATRICK STREET in Cork, Ireland, has a busy city atmosphere

manufacturing industries have been developed. The southern republic has some industrial plants, in the capital city of Dublin and elsewhere; but most Irish factories are in Ulster. Belfast, the "state capital" of Northern Ireland, is one of the great shipbuilding centers of the world. Textile mills, found in a number of cities, turn out woolen and linen fabrics.

As a part of the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland has been of great economic value during Britain's post-war shortage of dollars. Linen from Ulster is one of the principal United Kingdom exports to the United States. Along with other Northern Ireland products, this linen has helped a great deal to earn desperately needed dollars.

A major part of the southern republic's foreign trade, in each direction, is with Britain—in spite of the long-standing Irish antagonism toward that country.

Large numbers of the Irish people are quite poor. The tourist from abroad sees numerous old castles and mansions, but in some city areas the mansions are inhabited by groups of poverty-stricken families—one large family to a room. Nevertheless, during the last few years, living conditions in Ireland have been better than those in many of the war-damaged European countries.

A potato famine, which occurred a little more than a century ago, started a great wave of migration from Ireland to other nations. Citizens of Irish descent therefore make up im-

portant sections of many countries' populations—including that of the United States.

Because so many Americans are of Irish ancestry, people in our country generally take a great deal of interest in Irish affairs. About a month ago, the partition dispute between northern and southern Ireland was even brought into the U. S. Congress.

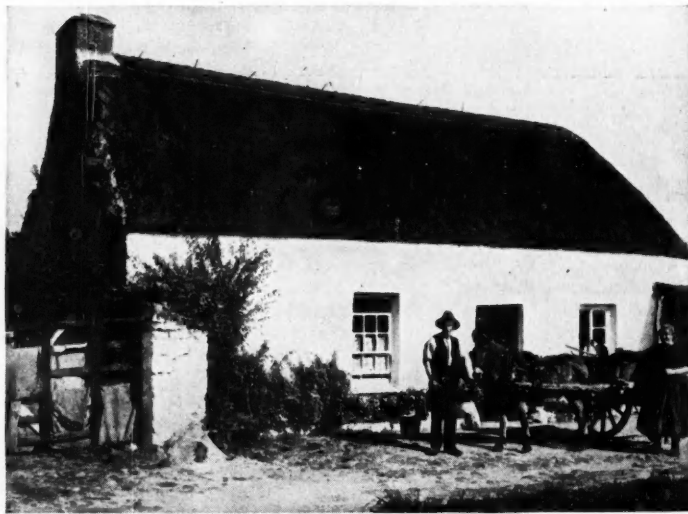
The House voted that British aid under the European Recovery Program ought to be cut unless Ulster joined the southern republic. Later they reversed themselves, since it was felt that such attempts to exert pressure on other countries should not be included in ERP legislation.

Ireland, with many of her "sons and daughters" living abroad, has a special reason for close friendship with quite a few nations. The southern Irish Republic, however, has not yet become a United Nations member. She has tried to join, but Russian opposition has kept her out. Northern Ireland, of course, is in the UN as part of the United Kingdom.

## Your Vocabulary

*Italicized words below appeared recently in the Reporter. Match each with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are given on page 8, column 4.*

1. The decision depends on what *criterion* (kri-tēr'i-ūn) we use. (a) information (b) standard of judgment (c) source of supply (d) route.
2. *Exemplary* (eg-zēm'plah-ri) behavior is (a) criminal (b) unusual and unexplainable (c) commendable and worthy of imitation.
3. If you *defame* (dē-fām') someone, you (a) seek to damage his reputation (b) praise him (c) ask his advice.
4. If a news article is *verbose* (vur-bōs'), it (a) is untrue (b) is accurate (c) uses more words than necessary (d) does not give enough details.
5. He *reiterated* (rē-it'er-āt-ēd) the statement. (a) revised (b) withdrew (c) believed (d) repeated.
6. They revealed the information *inadvertently* (in-ād-vur'tent-li). (a) through a careless mistake (b) proudly (c) promptly (d) with reluctance.
7. He was *perturbed* (per-turbd'). (a) thoroughly pleased (b) hired (c) criticized (d) greatly disturbed.



A TYPICAL RURAL scene in Ireland—it could be in the northern or southern part of the isle, for the two are much alike geographically



## Latest Styles for Athletes

**B**ASEBALL fans in Hollywood, California, gasped in surprise one day this month when their team took to the field. The players were clad in shorts much like basketball pants. They wore stockings which ended just below the knee, and short-sleeved, rayon shirts.

The new uniform will be used on hot days by the Pacific Coast League club. Designed to keep the players cool and to increase their speed afoot, it represents the most drastic change that has ever been made in baseball suits. Whether the new type of uniform will gain wide acceptance remains to be seen.

Few fans are aware of the interesting stories behind the development of baseball paraphernalia. Our modern diamond equipment is the product of long experimentation. The manufacture of baseball items is today a highly skilled operation.

Take the baseball, for example. At present all the baseballs used in the big leagues are manufactured in Chicopee, Massachusetts. First, a core of cork and rubber is made. Then 215 yards of wool yarn are wound round it, and later 150 yards of cotton thread. The ball is given a quick bath in rubber cement, and the horsehide cover is sewed on by hand.

In the early years of the game, the size of a baseball varied a good deal. In 1872 the weight and size were standardized. They haven't been changed since that time.

Almost every year someone charges that the ball used by one of the big leagues is livelier than the one used in the other circuit. The fact is, though, that all big-league baseballs are made in the same factory and are identical except for the trade-marks and the color of the heavy thread with which the covers are stitched.

At one time there may have been some truth to the charge that the American League baseballs had more bounce than those used in the National League. Some years ago the National League ball had a thicker cover than the one employed by the other circuit. The use of Australian wool in making the American League ball was also thought to add to its liveliness. Today the balls for both leagues are made to the same specifications.

—By HOWARD O. SWEET.



LIGHT UNIFORMS for baseball players



STUDENT GOVERNMENT is an established and valuable part of American school life. Here leaders of the Waukegan, Illinois, council take the oath of office.

### School Projects

## An Exchange of Students

**O**N Friday, May 5, a group of 26 students will leave the Frederick (Maryland) High School to spend a week with students in Newton, Massachusetts. Kathryn Zimmerman, a senior at Frederick, reports that the trip to Newton marks completion of an exchange program that brought 26 Newton students to Frederick last month. The purpose of the exchange, undertaken in cooperation with the American Red Cross, is to afford selected teen-agers opportunity for first-hand study of community history, culture, schooling, and recreation in each locality.

Visitors stay in the homes of students at the host school, attend classes and participate in recreational activities with them. Expenses of the exchange program this year were met by all-school fund-raising projects—a bazaar, a games night, a cake sale, and a square dance.

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**T**O help them become acquainted with the work of the United Nations, students at Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford, Connecticut, adopted the suggestion of Anthony Pilla, a junior, and have established a model UN organization. Barbara Borghi, assistant secretary, writes that the Lyman Hall model does not parallel UN in every respect, but that, nevertheless, students in the social studies classes of Miss Esther Cate and Miss Lillian Reid have set up some real working counterparts.

Delegates to the General Assembly are all members of the first period U. S. history class. Students in the second period U. S. history class provide the membership for the Security and Trusteeship councils. And the fourth period problems-of-democracy class concerns itself with the work of the Economic and Social Council. Working together, these three classes produce weekly a mimeographed paper called "United Nations Digest," complete with maps and discussion materials bearing on important international issues.

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**F**ORTY students in the social studies classes of Miss Irene O'Brien at Scott High School in Toledo, Ohio, are compiling biographies of the mayors of Toledo from the time the

city was chartered in 1837 up to the present. Early numbers in the series are appearing in the pages of the *Toledo City Journal*, official city publication.

This project requires that the students give close attention to the development of their local community; it means research in governmental offices, homes, newspaper files, and libraries. Gertrude Blumenthal, a student, has prepared sketches to illustrate each of the biographies; and the English classes check all materials to eliminate errors in grammar.

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**W**E make this suggestion to teachers and students who have written us recently, asking for suggestions about interesting student projects: Send for a copy of *The Student Council in the Secondary School*, published at \$1.00 by the National Association of Student Councils, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Chapters 14 and 15 list more than 75 school-community projects currently being carried on by student council organizations. Thirty of these projects are described in some detail by students or advisers in the schools sponsoring them. Many of the activities could easily be adapted to meet the requirements of social studies classes in other parts of the country. For example:

Students in four classes at Mesa (Arizona) High School collected 2,800 books to help equip the library of the school they adopted in Heilbron, Germany.

The American government classes at Ridgeville (Ohio) High School took the school census for the township board of education.

Students at Clay Center (Kansas) High School arranged an "International Day" for 40 foreign students attending Kansas State College.

Students in Greenville (South Carolina) High School have formed a Community Service Council to coordinate school activities with community agencies such as the Red Cross, P-TA, Community Chest, and Anti-Tuberculosis Association.

Students in the Hartford (Connecticut) Public High School conduct a continuing program of public information in support of United Nations activities.

### Philippine Students

## Look to Future

**T**HE Republic of the Philippines is now nearly four years old, with a free government and schools that are patterned very closely after ours. This is natural, of course, since we governed the islands for many years.

Two Philippine high school students told us about the great progress of their country during a recent visit to Washington. The students were Meliton V. Salazar and Emma Lauren Garcia. They had spent several months in various parts of the United States, and they were eager to compare our country with theirs.

"Our schools," Meliton said, "are patterned after yours. We read from your textbooks. We are taught your subjects, in the same way they are taught to you. For help in educational advancement, I thank America. About 51 per cent of our people can now read and write. This is a high percentage of literacy, compared with that of other Asiatic countries."

"I am proud of the progress we've made in our political experiments with government," Emma said. "Under American guidance we had achieved quite a remarkable degree of self-government. Now fully free, we are going ahead on equal footing with other nations in the world."

Meliton chimed in: "We are growing, and we are democratic. We can be a leader nation for Asia and her millions of people. We are willing to do this, to help our neighbor peoples, and this makes me very proud of my country."

One of the difficulties confronting the Philippine government is that of combating communism. Communist rebels, armed bands hiding in the countryside, have caused serious damage and created terror in raids against small villages.

Economically, the Philippines are just beginning to develop big industry. Agriculture remains the main occupation of the people. Rice, copra, hemp, and sugar are leading crops.

The Philippine islands, over 7,000



THEY thank the U. S.—Emma Garcia and Meliton Salazar of the Philippines.

of them, are about 500 miles off the coast of Asia. Area is 114,400 square miles, a bit more than that of Nevada. Manila, the capital, has a population of over 800,000. Total population is about 20 million. Spanish, English, and native languages are spoken.

We won the Philippine islands from Spain in 1899, under the treaty that followed the Spanish-American war. Our work to educate the country for democracy was interrupted by the war with Japan in 1941. After the Japanese were defeated and their occupation of the islands ended, it was possible for us to grant full independence to the Philippines, on July 4, 1946.

# The Story of the Week

## U. S.-Russian Friction

Since the loss of a U. S. Navy plane over the Baltic Sea several weeks ago, relations between our country and Russia have been even more strained than before. Few observers believe that we will sever diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union as a result of the loss of a U. S. military aircraft, but they do think that the possibility of an early end to the "cold war" between the two countries is now very slim indeed.

The actions of the missing Navy plane before it went down have been the subject of a bitter dispute between our State Department and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Russians say that an American B-29 flew over Latvian territory and that, after firing on several Soviet fighters that had gone up to order it to land, it disappeared in the direction of the Baltic Sea. The Russians do not admit firing on the craft.

Officials of our State Department state that the Russian version of the incident is not only incorrect, but an obvious attempt to convince the world—falsely—that we are planning aggressive action against Russia. First of all, these officials point out, the plane involved was a converted B-24 and not a B-29. Second, it was on a routine training flight from Wiesbaden, Germany to Copenhagen, Denmark, and it had been specifically instructed to stay away from Soviet-dominated land or territorial waters. Third, the plane was unarmed and could not have fired on Soviet craft as the Russians claimed it did.

Our ambassador to Moscow, Alan G. Kirk, delivered a strong note of protest regarding the affair to the Soviet government, demanding the punishment of the Soviet flyers who shot down our plane and asking that adequate compensation be made to the families of the 10 crew members who lost their lives in the incident.

As this is written, the exact outcome of the dispute is still very much in doubt. The Russians replied to our protest and refused the request we made for payment to the American



**TERRACES** and contour plowing on U. S. farms help to hold back rain waters and keep soil from blowing and washing away. Not enough has been done along this line, though, to prevent soil erosion and "dust storms." See historical article on page 8.

crew's next-of-kin. They repeated their earlier argument that our plane had flown over Soviet-dominated territory and that it had fired at a number of Soviet fighters.

## Libraries Closed

The Iron Curtain is drawn a notch tighter as a result of Czechoslovakia's decision to ban United States information centers in that country. The two U. S. libraries in Czechoslovakia have been forced to close. The Americans who worked in them have been called home.

In giving a reason for its action, the Czech government charged that the U. S. information centers were spreading false reports about Czechoslovakia and were arousing the Czech people against their Communist leaders. Several Czech citizens who worked for the centers were arrested and charged with spying for the Americans.

Our government, of course, denies these charges. The information offices, we say, were merely centers where Czech citizens could borrow books, periodicals, and films about the United States. Our government believes that the ban on the centers is just part of the Communist effort to

keep news and information about the western world from circulating behind the Iron Curtain.

The U. S. information offices in Rumania and Bulgaria were closed by the Communists some time ago, but we still have centers in Poland, Hungary, Russia, and Yugoslavia. However, except perhaps in Yugoslavia, the secret police are believed to discourage people from using the centers.

In retaliation for the banning of our information centers in Czechoslovakia, our government has requested that country to close its Chicago Consulate General. This office handles trade arrangements for Czechoslovak merchants. The Czechs have consulates in several other American cities. What their fate will be is not known as we go to press.

## Progress in Nepal

The first regular airplane service between Nepal and the outside world is scheduled to get under way some time next fall. The airline will operate between Kathmandu, the Nepalese capital, and New Delhi, India, where its route will be connected with those of several of the world's largest airline companies.

If the proposed airplane service actually is established next fall, Nepal will have taken an important step in its campaign to emerge from its age-old isolation and become a modern nation. Until recently, relations between Nepal and other countries were extremely limited and most of the people were illiterate. Now, children are being encouraged to attend at least elementary school and government officials are considering asking the United States for technical and other aid if Congress adopts President Truman's proposed Point Four program.

## Two Proposals

Two important proposals have been made by Administration leaders in the last few days to further the development of a foreign policy on which both Republicans and Democrats could agree. The proposals have been praised by leaders in both parties. They were put forward shortly after the appointment of two Republicans, John Foster Dulles and John S. Cooper, as advisers to Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

Under one of the plans, leading Republican lawmakers would be called to the White House from time to time to confer with President Truman and Secretary Acheson on foreign affairs and to give the Republican view concerning particular issues affecting our relations with other nations. Under the other plan, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, consisting of both Republicans and Democrats, would be divided into a number of subcommittees which would work closely with the various State Department divisions which deal with specific areas of the world, such as Latin America, the Far East, and so forth.

## Indian Bill

The Navajos and Hopis, most poverty-stricken of our Indian tribes, are looking toward the future with new hope. A bill signed 12 days ago by President Truman promises to give them the help they have needed for so long.

The new law provides for the federal government to spend 88½ million dollars over the next 10 years for schools, hospitals, housing, roads, and irrigation and soil conservation projects on the barren Navajo and Hopi reservations. It also gives the two tribes a greater measure of control over their own affairs.

Officials at the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs em-



**PREPARED for trouble.** U. S. troops learn to erect a barbed wire barrier as they train for possible outbreaks of trouble in Berlin.

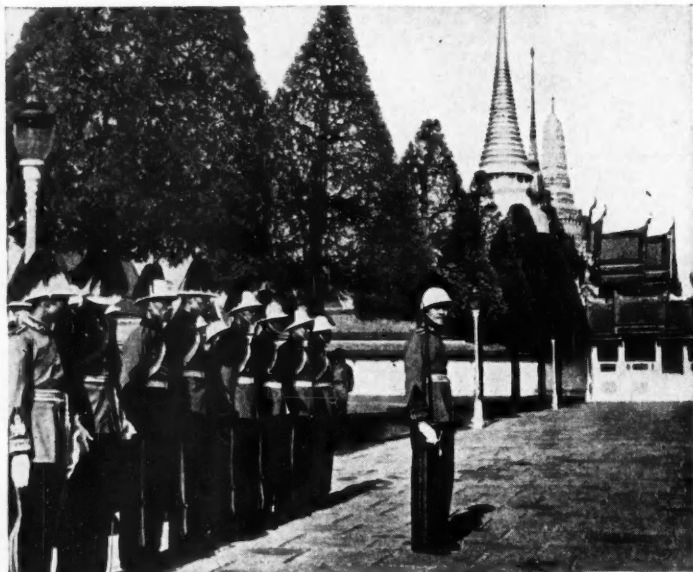
phasize that the program is not designed to give money to the Indians, but to make it possible for the tribes to support themselves.

## New Greek Cabinet

The State Department is pleased over the fact that a Greek cabinet has been formed consisting of the country's three moderate parties—the National Progressive Union, the Liberals, and the Democratic Socialists. These three groups are firm advocates of democracy. They won a majority of the votes in the recent elections in Greece.

The government that preceded the coalition cabinet was not a very popular one. It consisted mainly of political groups that received little support in the last elections.

State Department spokesmen believe that under the new coalition cabinet the country will be able to increase in-



**YOUNG KING PHUMIPHON** of Thailand (Siam) was welcomed by this palace guard as he returned to ascend the throne of his homeland. He had spent several years studying in European schools.





200 STUDENTS from 59 colleges and universities became delegates to a mock session of the United Nations General Assembly recently. They went to Lake Success to discuss UN problems in the official atmosphere of the assembly's regular chambers. The meeting was arranged by the American Association for the United Nations.

dustrial and agricultural production and bring about many badly needed reforms.

### Sharp Dispute

Whether or not Owen Lattimore, a professor at Johns Hopkins University, has actually worked with the Communist Party is still a highly explosive question. Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin feels that he has proved Mr. Lattimore's guilt in this connection. Included in his evidence was the recent testimony of Louis Budenz, a former Communist who broke away from the party in 1945.

The charges made by Mr. Budenz, now an assistant professor at Fordham University, have been hotly debated. Supporters of McCarthy and Budenz argue as follows:

"Since Mr. Budenz quit the Communist Party, he has been a valuable witness for the government against Communists who are in a position to hurt our government and our country. He had no reason to say that he knew Mr. Lattimore worked with the Communist Party unless the statement is true. He said that a number of his former Communist associates told him of the work Lattimore was doing for the party.

"The argument is made that Mr. Lattimore supported Finland when that small country was attacked by Russia and that he has also been in favor of the European Recovery Program which the Russians oppose. Mr. Budenz pointed out, however, that Mr. Lattimore's chief work for the Russians was to help communize China. According to Budenz, Lattimore could have been permitted to support Finland and the recovery program to cover up the fact that he was working with the Communists and divert suspicion from himself so that he could carry out his work for the party in China.

"Mr. Budenz described Owen Lattimore as a 'valued agent' of the Communist Party. On the basis of his testimony alone, Mr. Lattimore's views on China or any other public question should never again be trusted."

Defenders of Mr. Lattimore reply to these accusations as follows:

"Louis Budenz admitted that, during the time he was a Communist, he

never met Owen Lattimore or had any dealings with him. He based his whole charge against Mr. Lattimore on what other Communists told him. In a court of law, such evidence would not be permitted. It would be 'hearsay.'

"Mr. Budenz says that Lattimore's support of Finland in her war against Russia and his support of the European Recovery Program could have been just an attempt to cover up the fact that he was working with the Communists. 'If Mr. Budenz's reasoning were taken seriously,' the *Washington Post* says, 'it would be easy to conclude from it that he himself remains a Communist agent in disguise, covering up his party membership by attacks on the party while carrying out his orders by denouncing wholly innocent non-Communists.'

"Brigadier General Elliott Thorpe, retired, former chief of counter-intelligence for General Douglas MacArthur in Japan, testified that he believes Mr. Lattimore is a 'loyal American citizen and is in no way an agent of the Communist Party.' He

said that he had investigated Mr. Lattimore on three occasions and found nothing but 'hearsay evidence, most of it obviously vindictive in character.' His word is more reliable than that of an ex-Communist."

These are among the charges and counter-charges being hurled back and forth. All evidence in this controversy should be carefully examined by the average citizen in his effort to determine the true facts.

—By DAVID BEILES.

### Printing Troubles

After the April 24 issue of this paper had been put in final form by our editorial staff, a work stoppage developed among printing employees in Washington, D.C. This stoppage affected the firm which prints THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, and delayed publication. If your copies of the April 24 issue—or of the present one—did not arrive on schedule, we shall appreciate it if you will bear with us until the printing situation returns to normal.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

When William Howard Taft was lecturing in unfriendly territory, someone threw a cabbage at him. It rolled to a stop at Taft's feet.

"I see," he said, "that one of my opponents has lost his head."

Son: "You remember, dad, you promised me \$10 if I passed in school this year."

Father: "Yes, how did you make out?"

Son: "Congratulations, you won't have to pay it."

A college reunion brought together two sorority sisters who hadn't seen each other for several years.

"Do you remember," asked one, "the red-haired boy we used to meet at the tennis club?"

"Do I," replied the other. "He told me that if I didn't marry him he would do something terrible. I often wonder what became of him."

And the first one snapped: "He happens to be my husband."

A magazine article described the dress of an Indian as a sarong instead of a sari. The copy chief who allowed the error to pass, wrote to the editor: "All I can say is, I'm sari I was sarong."

It was a little girl's first day at school and the teacher was making out her registration card.

"What is your father's name?" asked the teacher.

"Daddy," replied the child.

"Yes, I know, but what does your mother call him?"

"She doesn't call him anything. She likes him."

College senior (at baseball game): "Look at that first baseman snag those throws! I think he'll be our best man this year."

Coed: "Well, really, this is so sudden!"



"That's fine—now I'd like to buy something for casual wear."

## Readers Say—

In THE AMERICAN OBSERVER for April 3, Haifa is mentioned as the capital of Israel. Are you not aware that this honor belongs to the Holy City of Jerusalem, which has been the capital of the whole of Palestine for more than 2,500 years?

JOSH GREENBERG,  
Brooklyn, New York

(Editor's note: We were incorrect when we said that Haifa is the Israeli capital but there is a difference of opinion over whether Jerusalem can be called the official seat of the government. The Israeli say that it is, pointing out that they moved their administrative offices and parliament to the ancient city as soon as their war with the Arabs ended.

Other people, however, insist that the Jews have no right to consider Jerusalem as their capital, since the UN General Assembly has twice voted to internationalize the city and place it under a UN trusteeship. At the same time, the assembly's decision is opposed by such influential nations as the U. S. and Great Britain and there is a possibility that it will be replaced by some other arrangement at the next assembly session.)

★ ★ ★

To my mind, the Taft-Hartley Law has been quite fair to the nation's trade unions. Under its provisions, the President may compel strikers to return to work only if their walkout threatens the health and safety of the country.

GLENN BOYINGTON,  
Tolley, North Dakota

★ ★ ★

I disagree with Senator Lodge's proposal to abolish the Electoral College and distribute the electoral votes of a state among the candidates on the basis of the popular vote each of them receives. In my opinion, such a plan retains the idea of the Electoral College even though it eliminates the college itself.

I favor the direct, popular election of our President and Vice President. When a voter enters a booth and casts his ballot, he should feel that he is actually determining the outcome of the election and not just taking part in a complicated scheme having nothing to do with his feelings.

JIM CLIFFORD,  
Piedmont, California

★ ★ ★

I sincerely believe that Alaska and Hawaii should be admitted to the Union. Some people object to granting statehood to these two territories, arguing that neither of them has a large enough population to warrant admission. My answer is that the number of people in Alaska is not much smaller than that of Nevada while the population of Hawaii is much greater.

On July 4, 1776, the colonies broke away from England principally because they were subjected to taxation without representation. Is it right that we should now resemble England and continue imposing taxation on Alaska and Hawaii without giving them representation?

DICK GOSBIE,  
Fall Creek, Wisconsin

★ ★ ★

I agree completely with General Eisenhower's views on the state of our armed forces. While Russia has been building up her military establishments, we have been "economizing" and cutting down the strength of our Army, Navy and Air Force. If we hope to be able to defend ourselves in another war, we must begin spending more money than we have on all our services, and especially the Air Force.

SUZANNE SLATER,  
Warren, Indiana

★ ★ ★

It seems to me that we should pay more attention to our Indian citizens. As Don Eddy recently pointed out, large numbers of Indians in the southwest are suffering from lack of schools, hospitals, and other facilities. The population of our Indian tribes is increasing all along, but their landholdings are decreasing.

JOYCE MORSE,  
Littleton, New Hampshire

# Employment

(Concluded from page 1)

watching it carefully. Rising unemployment is often one of the signs of a business depression. As soon as people are out of work, they no longer have the money to buy as many goods as they otherwise would purchase. A falling demand for household goods, radios, automobiles, and so on means that factories making these articles have to lay off additional men. Thus, the number of unemployed is further increased, and the vicious cycle continues.

One of the major reasons for rising unemployment is the steady increase that is taking place in the size of the labor force. Last year about 1½ million workers set out to obtain jobs for the first time. These included high school and college graduates, members of the armed forces returning to civilian life, and married women seeking employment outside their homes.

A sizable number of workers retire, of course, each year, but they do not by any means balance the number that annually enter the labor force. In 1949 the U.S. labor supply showed a net gain of almost 1 million. At present American industry is not able to absorb all these newcomers. Many find jobs, but increasing numbers are having trouble getting work.

A second reason for increasing unemployment is a drop in the demand for certain articles. In the years immediately after the war the public wanted goods of all kinds. Factories could not turn out articles fast enough.

The demand created by wartime shortages has now been met in many fields, and consumption is back to normal. The sale of some articles—textiles, for example—is slipping, and factories are reducing their output. While this trend is not yet particularly widespread, it does, nonetheless, mean lay-offs for workers in some factories.

## Labor-Saving Machines

Still another cause for unemployment is found in the introduction of labor-saving machinery in certain industries. After the war many plants with old, worn-out machinery undertook improvement programs. New equipment was installed which, in many cases, has enabled factories to get along with fewer employees than

### STOP UNEMPLOYMENT AT THE SOURCE

**LOCAL  
FULL EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE**

### ACTION TO CREATE JOBS

- Examine local needs & resources
- Develop resources to meet needs
- Get new customers, new products, new uses for old products
- Bring in new industries
- Get financing for:  
New equipment, working capital, plant expansion, new business
- Work with employment service:  
Develop jobs, find needed skills, offer job training
- Start needed public works & service  
Slum clearance, schools, roads, medical care, teaching

UNEMPLOYMENT is a community as well as a national problem

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

formerly. Thus, the number of workers has declined even though the output has increased. The loss of jobs through the use of labor-saving machinery is known as "technological unemployment."

In most areas where unemployment is found today, idleness of workers has been brought about by a combination of the factors we have mentioned. Certain industries, however, have been especially hard hit. These include textile manufacturing, coal mining, and metal making.

In an effort to remedy the existing situation, our government has ordered that articles to be purchased for the armed forces and the various civilian federal agencies shall, insofar as possible, be obtained from areas where unemployment is known to be most serious. While these government contracts are helping to keep some workers busy, they are giving but limited and temporary aid, according to reports from a number of the affected areas.

Meanwhile, President Truman has asked Congress to strengthen our unemployment insurance system. At present, all states pay weekly benefits to wage earners, covered by the present law, who have become temporarily unemployed. The benefits vary from state to state, but the national average is about \$20 a week. Some states

make payments for as little as 12 weeks. Others pay benefits for as long as 26 weeks.

The President wants the national average increased to about \$24 a week and wants 26 weeks to become the standard time for which unemployed may draw insurance benefits. He also wishes the present law to be expanded so that many people not now eligible for insurance will be able to receive unemployment payments.

## Public Works Program

There is some talk of an expanded public works program, if unemployment continues to rise. Under such a program the government would presumably create employment in many areas by helping to finance the construction of additional public buildings, highways, and various other projects. A large-scale, emergency program of this nature was carried out in the 1930's to help relieve unemployment. However, it is only in the discussion stage at this time.

The channeling of government contracts into "distressed areas," the expansion of the insurance system, and a public-works program are all valuable defenses against unemployment, but even the advocates of these measures agree that they are only "stop-gap" projects. They do not solve the long-range problem of how to assure employment for all in the years ahead. One factor which is making the problem more serious is the ever-increasing use of labor-saving machines.

As we have already noted, many industries have been installing new equipment in the years since the war. In most cases it has taken some time to carry out these improvement programs, and only in the past year or so has the effect of this new, labor-saving machinery been reflected in rising unemployment figures. To what extent the introduction of these machines has contributed to the present unemployment is difficult to say, for no accurate figures are available on the causes of unemployment.

In the long run, it is generally felt that the introduction of labor-saving machinery is a good thing for the nation as a whole. The use of such equipment in the past has meant greater production, lower prices, and a higher standard of living for the American people. And over the years it has created additional employment

by opening up new kinds of jobs which did not previously exist.

Though labor-saving machinery has a beneficial effect in the long run, it does, nonetheless, create immediate unemployment in certain industries at certain times. It is undeniable that some people are thrown out of work when labor-saving machines are introduced—as some of the idle workers in Cumberland and other "distressed areas" will attest. To those who need work immediately to support themselves and their families, it is little consolation that they may benefit—eventually—through the use of the machines which took their jobs.

Thus, if labor-saving devices continue to cause idleness among workers, more and more demands will undoubtedly be heard for a solution to the problem of "technological unemployment." One suggested solution is a shorter work-week than at present. Under such a plan the standard 40-hour work-week might be reduced, let us say, to 35 hours. If output were kept at the same level as at present, many more jobs would result. During the depression of the 1930's, many people advocated steps of this nature to reduce the number of jobless.

Still another proposal calls for an increase in old-age pensions and the retirement of workers at a lower age than at present. Such a plan, it is pointed out, would mean increased opportunities for young people upon graduation from high schools and colleges. At the same time, elderly workers would be able to live comfortably on the pensions they would receive.

One objection to this plan is that many workers do not wish to retire at an earlier age than at present. Also many young workers are opposed to paying for the cost of increased pensions.

These are some of the ideas that are being put forth as possible solutions to the nation's unemployment problem. Whether they will be incorporated into law will depend on how serious unemployment becomes and on the wishes of the people speaking through their congressmen.

The three highest waterfalls in the world are the Angel Falls in Venezuela (3,700 feet), the Tugela Falls in South Africa (2,800 feet), and Yosemite Falls in California (2,425 feet).



DO MACHINES create more jobs than they take away? This has been a debatable question throughout our nation.

BISHOP IN ST. LOUIS STAR-TIMES



## Science News

A new animal is attacking livestock, deer, and poultry in the Adirondack Mountains in New York, as well as in other areas of the Northeast. Because it resembles both the coyote and the dog, the animal is known as a coyote-dog and is often called a "coydog."

The coyote-dogs weigh between 35 and 60 pounds each and vary in color—some are red, some brown, some white. Like wild dogs, they travel in packs.

Some counties in New York state have placed bounties on the coydogs, hoping that hunters will be encouraged to trap them. The clever animal is difficult to catch, however, and methods used in the West to track down coyotes can't be used in the more thickly settled East.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is cooperating with state officials in the fight against the coyote-dogs, though so far there doesn't seem to be any effective way of getting rid of them.

★ ★ ★

Following the example of Britain and Russia, the U. S. government is investigating the possibility of using peat as a coal substitute. It is estimated that this country has about 14½ billion tons of peat, which gives about as much heat as coal—at one tenth of the cost.

Peat has other uses, too, scientists say. It can be transformed into low-grade nylon, so that ladies' stockings might be manufactured for only 12 cents a pair. The mineral can be used to make synthetic rubber, and can serve a wide variety of other purposes in agriculture, medicine, and in building construction.

★ ★ ★

A new type of grass is bringing enthusiastic comments from Texas cattlemen. Named "K.R. yellow bluestem," after a ranch where it was



THE GERMAN who invented this device claims it permits a watchmaker to tell in three minutes (instead of 24 hours, the usual required time) whether or not a timepiece is operating accurately. Machines for the same general purpose have been developed earlier.

tried out some years ago, the grass is more effective than other vegetation in holding water in the soil. In addition, cattle like it—and after all they are the ones who have to eat it!

At present, about 100,000 acres of grazing land have been seeded with the bluestem grass. Other cattlemen are buying the seed so that some experts predict that 50 million acres of pasture land—now threatened by overgrazing—may be saved.

—By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.



EVEN THE YOUNG PEOPLE in Belgium have helped with their country's job of reconstruction. Here a group is shown as it works to repair fish nets.

## A Belgian Dilemma

Small, Prosperous European Nation Has Been Split by Question of Permitting King to Return to Throne

THE small, rich nation of Belgium is still trying to decide whether her king, 49-year-old Leopold III, shall be permitted to return home from his exile in Switzerland. Leopold is eager to return, but about 43 per cent of the people oppose him. The dispute, which has been going on since the end of World War II, has created a political crisis. It may be settled by the time this paper reaches its readers.

Leopold's own proposal is that he live in Belgium, but let his 19-year-old son, Prince Baudouin, temporarily assume the actual job of king. Leopold is said to be convinced that, if he resumes residence in Belgium, he can win back popular support and restore himself as monarch.

Leopold became king upon the death of his father, Albert I, in 1934. The monarch was generally popular with his people until World War II. Eighteen days after Nazi Germany attacked Belgium in 1940, Leopold ordered his troops to surrender.

Many people felt that Leopold gave up too easily and, in so doing, endangered his British and French allies. This is one reason given by the Belgians who oppose the king's return from exile. His large following, however, insists that he was justified in surrendering to the Nazis in order to avoid further bloodshed when defeat was certain.

For most of the rest of the war, Leopold lived quietly and very comfortably in a country castle. He entertained friends, played golf, and kept out of politics. The luxury he seemed to enjoy, while the country was under German occupation, caused more resentment. This feeling was increased when the king married a young woman who, being without royal ancestry, cannot be queen. (Leopold's first wife, the beautiful Princess Astrid of Sweden, was killed in an auto accident before the war.)

The Germans finally took Leopold to Germany in 1944. He was liberated by American troops who entered the Nazi domain when the war ended in 1945. Meanwhile, the western allies drove the Germans out of Belgium. The Belgians re-established their own government, with Leopold's brother, Prince Charles, as regent. Leopold

took up residence in Switzerland and opened a campaign to get back his crown.

From the standpoint of government, there seems to be no need of a king in Belgium. A Prime Minister and a cabinet carry on the details of administering the country, subject to majority support by Parliament. The Parliament consists of two houses, both elected. The government is very democratic but, as in Britain, the tradition of kingship is strong. So the issue over Leopold became a serious one.

As a country, Belgium is small. Its 11,775 square-mile area, in west central Europe, is less than a third larger than that of Vermont. A population of nearly 9 million is crowded into this small territory—an average of over 730 people to the square mile. There are two language groups, the French-speaking Walloons and the Dutch-speaking Flemings.

Large coal reserves have made it possible for Belgium to rank as one of Europe's largest and richest industrial nations. Linens, laces, and other fine textiles have been produced for centuries. Luxury shoes are an important item. Belgium also builds ships, many kinds of machinery, cars and other railway equipment.

The city of Antwerp, supplied with diamonds from the Belgian Congo, an African colony, is famous as a center for cutting the stones.

Belgium maintains an extensive agriculture to balance its industry. About 60 per cent of the total area is under cultivation, with wheat, rye, and sugar beets as principal crops. Dairy farming also is carried on.



MAP FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON  
BELGIUM'S short coastline lies along the North Sea.

## Magazines and Newspapers

"How to Have Better Schools," by Roy E. Larsen, This Week.

The National Citizens Commission for the Public Schools wants to help groups interested in improving the public schools in their communities.

Low salaries, crowded buildings, and poor equipment, the commission thinks, can best be overcome through action by the people themselves. In place after place—Bridgeport, Connecticut; Danville, Illinois; Arlington, Virginia—laymen have organized to help the schools—and with results.

Arlington's experience is typical. The schools needed money, but the politically appointed board could accomplish little. Parents and other interested citizens united to fight for improvements. They secured a board whose members are elected rather than appointed. They persuaded the public to approve a bond issue to raise funds for the schools.

Citizens in other communities who are interested in organizing to advance the interests of their schools may write for suggestions to the National Citizens Commission for the Public Schools, 2 West 45 Street, New York 19, N.Y.

"China in the Long Haul," by Nathaniel Peffer, Harper's Magazine, April, 1950.

If China should become stronger industrially—if she comes to enjoy even a small measure of prosperity—she is likely to feel that she can insist upon full freedom and independence. She will probably be unwilling for any foreign nation to hold her as a satellite.

"Meanwhile no disaster hangs over us." Many people are unduly alarmed about the prospect that Chinese Communists may quickly overrun southern Asia, and that they and the Russians may reach the American Pacific Coast.

"This is nonsense. It will take years, decades even, for Russia to transmute the undernourished, untrained masses of Asia and the . . . primitive economies of the Asian lands into military power at its disposal against a country as strong as America."

And before anything like that is undertaken the Chinese may have turned against Russia and may be leading their fellow Asians toward real independence. There is better than an even chance that this may happen.

"Marshall Plan—Halfway," editorial comment in St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

With the Marshall Plan now at its mid-point, western Europe can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Industrial production has risen, and the Communist threat has eased. Still, the fight for freedom is far from won.

We should now begin to look ahead to 1952 to see what can be done when the European Recovery Program comes to an end. We cannot afford to desert Europe, but at the same time we cannot afford to exhaust ourselves by continuing aid indefinitely.

Senator Vandenberg has proposed that a new "unpartisan" committee begin to study the situation. His proposal should be put into effect. Planning for the future should begin now so that chaos can be avoided in 1952.

## Careers for Tomorrow - - On the Farm

IN many ways, farming has become a profession—similar to law, engineering, or medicine. It requires intelligence and that quality called executive ability. It also requires long experience before one is able to operate successfully and independently.

Unlike law and medicine, however, farming does not require a long period of academic training. A young man who wants to become a farmer will benefit greatly by going to one of the country's many agricultural colleges—there is one in each of the 48 states and in Alaska. But this training is not essential. He can learn his job by working as a laborer, a tenant, or a renter on a farm.

Whether he goes to an agricultural college or decides to start working immediately, a young farmer must acquire a vast knowledge of soil, crops, seeds, machinery, marketing methods, animals, the weather, and the many other factors that enter into farm life.

Of course, the specific things he must learn depend on the kind of farmer he expects to be. That in turn depends upon the section of the country in which he expects to live. A young person who wants to settle along the eastern coast might become a truck farmer. He must know the problems connected with raising vegetables and fruits primarily for sale in nearby cities.

A man who wants to make his home in Kansas may become a wheat farmer. One who wants to live in the South may become a cotton farmer. A person who wants to settle in the Far West may establish a cattle ranch.

In each case, the young farmer must learn the problems of his vicinity and of his particular type of farming. A successful wheat man, for instance, might well fail entirely as a truck farmer. A cattle man would be at a loss in a cotton field.

Farming is not a vocation for the lazy. Even with mechanical equipment that now performs almost all jobs known to the farmer, there is still



HE LOOKS as though he likes farming

a vast amount of physical labor to be done. And the work must be done from day to day. An office worker can leave his job for a short trip, or when he has a cold. But the farmer can't give in to ailments when the crops must be planted or when harvesting time arrives. Livestock needs attention every day and hundreds of little jobs are always waiting.

Nevertheless, farm work may be extremely challenging. Each farm is somewhat like a small factory. The farmer must see that it operates efficiently and on schedule—there's where his executive ability is needed. And the problems are never routine. A change in the weather may call for a change in one's whole plan for the year. On his way to the field, a farmer may find a sick animal that needs attention. He must take care of the animal and his other work, too.

A farmer's earnings depend in part upon factors beyond his control—the weather and general marketing conditions, for instance. But they also depend upon how well he has chosen his farm and upon his own resources as a farmer. A person who has selected a poorly drained or rocky piece of land will have an extremely hard time making a living. One who is careless about his work will find little financial reward in farming.

But generally speaking, especially with federal programs for assisting the farmer, a young man going into this field can expect to make an adequate living. If he buys a farm immediately, his initial investment—in land and equipment—will be high and he may have to go into debt to get his start. Careful planning, however, will see him through the first hard years.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., has a number of pamphlets that will be valuable to high school students who are considering a career in farming. These are available on request.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

## Study Guide

### Unemployment

1. Compare the latest figures on employment and unemployment in the U. S. A.
2. How does the ratio between those who have jobs and those who do not compare today with the ratio which existed in 1933?
3. Even though present employment is high, why are Washington officials concerned about the rise in the number of jobless?
4. Give three reasons for the rising unemployment in the past year.
5. What "stop-gap" measures have been proposed to remedy the unemployment situation?
6. Compare the immediate and long-range effects of the introduction of labor-saving machinery on the number of employed workers.
7. Give two solutions that have been suggested to the problem of "technological unemployment."

### Discussion

1. Do you think that the federal government should embark on an expanded public-works program at this time to create employment? Why, or why not?
2. On the basis of your present information, what do you think would be the most satisfactory way of eliminating unemployment caused by the introduction of labor-saving machines?

### Ireland

1. What question has been causing a controversy in recent weeks among Americans of Irish descent?
2. Describe the beginnings of dispute between the people of northern and southern Ireland.
3. Outline the settlement that was reached in the early 1920's.
4. What argument is advanced by those who think the island should remain partitioned?
5. Give the views of those who think the whole island should be under a single government.
6. What are the principal industries of the island?
7. How was the dispute between northern and southern Ireland brought into the U. S. House of Representatives recently?

### Discussion

In your opinion, should Americans of Irish ancestry seek to influence political affairs in Ireland, or should they leave these matters to be decided by the people who live on the island? Give reasons for your answer.

### Miscellaneous

1. Should we have severed diplomatic relations with Russia because of the shooting down of the American aircraft over the Baltic Sea? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Describe the proposals for increasing bipartisan support of our foreign policy.
3. What is Nepal doing to emerge from its isolation?
4. What specific steps do we hope Greece's new cabinet will take to improve conditions in that country?
5. Describe the situation created by the dust storms of the 1930's.

### References

- "Priming Hinted as Concern Mounts," *Newsweek*, March 20, 1950. Discussion of unemployment.
- "Unemployment, Prosperity: Strange Pair," *Business Week*, March 4, 1950. Appraisal of fact that while the number of unemployed rises, production and income continue to be near peak levels.

### Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (b) standard of judgment; 2. (c) commendable and worthy of imitation; 3. (a) seek to damage his reputation; 4. (c) uses more words than necessary; 5. (d) repeated; 6. (a) through a careless mistake; 7. (d) greatly disturbed.

## Historical Backgrounds - - The Dusty 1930's

THERE is again danger that dust storms will do great damage to the farm lands of our Great Plains states, in the west and southwestern parts of our country. Dust storms have been reported in sections of Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas during the past few weeks. There has been some damage to crops. Recent rains have improved the outlook somewhat, but farmers are worried. They remember the havoc they suffered in the years before World War II.

A plague of dust storms spread disaster over millions of acres of our farms during the 1930's. People glanced at a suddenly darkened sky in those years and thought, at first, that the yellow and dirty, gray-black clouds were bringing a thunderstorm. But they carried only dust.

The dust filled the mouth and ears, and choked up the nostrils. It often was necessary to wear a mask with a filter, to cleanse the air for breathing. Wind whipped the dust through the most tightly closed windows, to cover rugs, furniture, clothing. The wind piled up the dirt in drifts, sometimes covering automobiles and tractors. Worst of all, the wind-borne dust was the topsoil of farm land. Some of the dust was carried as far east as the Atlantic Ocean. Barren, useless farms were left behind.

Parts of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Nebraska, North and South Dakota were among the states hardest hit in the 1930's. But eastern Iowa and other states on the fringe of the big dust bowl also

suffered. Many farmers, no longer able to make a living from their ruined fields, started to migrate eastward to the cities and westward to work in California fruit groves. As many as one out of every four homes was abandoned in the worst hit areas.

What was the cause of this dust plague? The immediate cause was a long drouth. This left the soil dry and loose, so that winds could sweep it away easily. But the real reason was that the soil had been overworked for many years, and little or no effort had been made to preserve it.

Farmers usually kept a good part



THE DUST BOWL of the 1930's included parts of eight Midwestern states.

of their land as pasture for cattle and sheep in the early days of our history. They lacked tractors and other mechanical equipment. With only horses and mules, most farmers were limited in the amount of land they could use for crops. The large areas left in grass for pasture, and in forests, absorbed and held moisture. This moisture, stored underground, kept the soil from blowing away during drouths.

During World War I, however, farmers greatly expanded their fields of wheat and other crops. Motorized farming made it possible to do this. We needed more food than ever before in our history. Prices were high. So the farmer plowed up pastures and planted money-making seeds. Very few gave any thought to the need for conserving the land.

The big drouth came along as a companion to the nation-wide depression of the '30's. The dust storms began. The damage caused by them awakened the nation to the need for extensive soil conservation. Trees were planted in the disaster areas to reduce soil damage from wind and to absorb moisture. Nearly 50 million acres were in danger in the 1930's, but this figure was cut to 22 million by 1940.

During World War II, however, farmers again expanded acreage to meet the great demand for food. This new increase, to some degree, offset gains made under the soil conservation program. The recent dust storms, while not critical, show that steps must be taken to preserve our farm lands.